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By: **Delegates Guns and Hammen**

Introduced and read first time: February 22, 2000

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Funding for Dental Services**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to include in the budget for the  
4 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene sufficient funds to assure that  
5 certain reimbursement rates provided to dentists by certain managed care  
6 organizations and dental managed care organizations for certain dental services  
7 under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program are set at certain levels;  
8 requiring the Department to require certain managed care organizations and  
9 dental managed care organizations to provide reimbursement for dental fees at  
10 certain minimum levels; and generally relating to funding for dental services  
11 under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

12 BY adding to

13 Article - Health - General

14 Section 15-103(d)

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (1994 Replacement Volume and 1999 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, In accordance with Chapter 113 of the Acts of 1998, the Department  
19 of Health and Mental Hygiene established by regulation a 5-year oral health care  
20 plan that set utilization targets for managed care organizations and dental managed  
21 care organizations under the Maryland Medical Assistance Program to measure  
22 demonstrated increases in access by program enrollees to dental services; and

23 WHEREAS, The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has reported that  
24 no substantial progress has been made toward meeting the utilization targets; and

25 WHEREAS, The lack of access to dental care for Program enrollees is directly a  
26 result of inadequate reimbursement rates paid by the managed care organizations  
27 and dental managed care organizations; now, therefore,

28 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
29 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

1 **Article - Health - General**

2 15-103.

3 (D) (1) THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE BUDGET FOR THE  
4 DEPARTMENT SUFFICIENT FUNDS UNDER THE PROGRAM TO ASSURE THAT  
5 REIMBURSEMENT RATES PROVIDED TO DENTISTS BY MANAGED CARE  
6 ORGANIZATIONS AND DENTAL MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS ARE SET AT A LEVEL  
7 THAT IS SUFFICIENT TO MEET THE UTILIZATION TARGETS FOR DENTAL SERVICES  
8 ESTABLISHED IN THE ORAL HEALTH CARE PLAN.

9 (2) BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2001, THE DEPARTMENT SHALL REQUIRE  
10 THAT EACH MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATION AND DENTAL MANAGED CARE  
11 ORGANIZATION PROVIDE REIMBURSEMENT FOR DENTAL FEES AS FOLLOWS:

12 (I) FOR 2001, AT LEAST 70% OF THE USUAL, CUSTOMARY, AND  
13 REASONABLE FEE;

14 (II) FOR 2002, AT LEAST 75% OF THE USUAL, CUSTOMARY, AND  
15 REASONABLE FEE; AND

16 (III) FOR 2003, AT LEAST 85% OF THE USUAL, CUSTOMARY, AND  
17 REASONABLE FEE.

18 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, in accordance with the  
19 provisions of Chapter 113 of the Acts of 1998, the utilization targets are to be based on  
20 achieving a minimum utilization level of at least 70% over a 5-year period. It is the  
21 intent of the General Assembly of Maryland that the Governor include in the annual  
22 budget sufficient funds provided through the rate-setting process to support  
23 managed care organizations in meeting the requirement of this Act.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2000.